



Committee on Homeland Security

Democrats
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member

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BUSH CUTS IN PORT SECURITY ENDANGER AMERICA

Washington, DC — Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee, issued the following statement on the Administration's proposed budget cuts to port security funding.

"President Bush's budget cuts threaten to undermine homeland security and endanger America. Under his proposal, funding for ports will be placed in the same account as the funding source for other transit systems, like subways and passenger trains. This will force ports to compete with other transportation systems that already have desperate security needs. When authorizing the Coast Guard last year, Congress expressly stated that ports should have a dedicated source of funding, and the President's budget goes back on that commitment," stated Congressman Thompson.

Kurt Nagle, the president and CEO of The American Association of Port Authorities, issued a statement today stating that the President's proposed budget for ports "would pit border security needs against domestic security."

"The President's budget robs Peter to pay Paul," said Congressman Thompson. **"America's coastal communities are the first line of defense for the nation and remain particularly vulnerable to the terrorist threat. I will fight to put this right."**
